

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. SEMLER

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise today joined by my New England colleagues Senators Jeffords, Kerry, Snowe, Reed, Dodd, Gregg, Lieberman, Chafee, Collins, and Leahy to congratulate Robert J. Semler as he ends an impressive career as the Regional Administrator for the Department of Labor. Since 1985, Bob has been responsible for the administration of the Federal employment and training programs throughout New England. He has ensured that workers and employers in New England understood and took advantage of the opportunities in the Job Training Partnership Act, the School-to-Work Act, the Welfare-to-Work Act, and most recently in the Workforce Investment Act. He has taken federal programs from print to the people and made every program work for the particular needs of New England.

During his 33-year career with the Department of Labor Bob has actively tried to meet the needs of employers and employees, understanding that economic development means investing in people. He has made the six New England States operate as a region, and with that collaboration has come a renewed commitment to the cross-State initiatives that have allowed our region to remain competitive in attracting new industries.

Bob's commitment to people began with his time with the Peace Corps. From 1964 to 1970 he served as the Western Venezuela Regional Director overseeing Peace Corps volunteers and programs that worked with community development, health initiatives and agricultural cooperatives. He took the lessons learned in community building and imbedded those beliefs in the implementation of job training policy over the next 27 years.

Countless New England workers have raised their skills and found better jobs because of the work of Bob Semler, and it is with great pride and genuine affection that we recognize his impressive contributions to our region and wish him all our best as he begins the next phase in his impressive career.●

FREE OVER-THE-AIR BROADCASTING

• Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the important role that free, over-the-air broadcasting plays in local communities.

Every 2 years, the National Association of Broadcasters conducts an industry-wide census of television and radio broadcasters' public service efforts. The results from the most recent census found that America's radio and television stations contributed a staggering \$9.9 billion in service to their local communities throughout 2001.

The President has spoken in recent months of how Americans have rediscovered the value of service. Today, I would like to applaud an industry that consistently demonstrates how small

business can weave itself into the fabric of a community and play a vital role in helping others.

In my home State, radio and television stations often assist local charities and non-profits. It is estimated that local Arkansas television and radio stations' community service efforts during 2001 amounted to over 71 million dollars.

During 2001, KPOM-TV in Fort Smith continued its partnership with the Salvation Army to support the charity's year-end Red Kettle Drive. The event netted a quarter of a million dollars to support needy families in the surrounding area. On their end, KPOM ran a schedule of 10 public service announcements per day to support the effort.

Local Arkansas stations have also actively worked to promote health and health awareness in their communities. In Little Rock, radio stations KURB-FM and KLAL-FM were official sponsors and hosts of this year's Arkansas Race for the Cure benefit for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Thanks to these stations' promotional activities, more than 34 thousand people participated, bringing in more than 1.6 million dollars to fight cancer. In Mountain Home, AM and FM stations KTLO and KCCT-FM partner every year to put on a Senior Fair and Hospital Expo. The event brings in more than 3,000 senior citizens every year for free health tests, information and referrals. In Jonesboro, KAIT-TV conducted an active Public Service Announcement campaign to promote prostate cancer awareness. The on-air effort included interviews with prostate cancer survivors in the community. The timing of the campaign coincided with a local hospital's program to provide free screenings for area men.

While \$9.9 billion is an impressive figure, what is most impressive about broadcasters' community service work is that each station endeavors to meet the community's unique needs. The efforts of broadcasters are as diverse as the different communities they serve. Local broadcast stations serve every community differently.

In this new era, I think it is important that we recognize those among us who have a solid record of service. And so to my local Arkansas broadcasters, I would like to say thank you. We appreciate everything that you do to make our communities and our lives better, and we sincerely hope that you will keep up the good work.●

SALUTING SOUTH CAROLINA CREDIT UNIONS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, as we watch our budget deficits going up, up, and away, I take solace in knowing that today in South Carolina we are teaching our teenagers the real value of money.

The South Carolina Credit Union League, in conjunction with the Clemson Cooperative Extension, is fur-

nishing materials to teachers throughout the State to help build financial literacy among our teenagers. Teenagers spend \$155 billion a year nationwide, yet only 10 percent have any financial training in high school. It is imperative that they learn, as early as possible, sound fiscal habits. I thank the credit unions in South Carolina for taking on this initiative, which is part of a nationwide effort, spearheaded by the National Endowment for Financial Education.

To recognize the important role high school teachers play in this effort, the credit unions also recently named Sue Dillon, a teacher at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, SC, as the Financial Literacy Educator of the Year. Her commitment to students' financial knowledge is reaching hundreds of young people in five South Carolina schools. Since today's high school graduates stand to earn more than \$1 million as adults, the lessons Ms. Dillon teaches may be some of the most valuable her students ever learn. I congratulate her on receiving this honor.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY UHALDE

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to pay a special tribute to a great public servant who is retiring later this month after nearly 25 years of tireless and effective service. Raymond J. Uhalde has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training for the past 8 years. As the senior career professional in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), he provided executive direction for its \$11 billion annual budget and 1300 employees. Ray also served as acting Assistant Secretary from 1996 to 1998, and held other key policy positions during his tenure at the Department of Labor. As Deputy Assistant Secretary, he led important initiatives that improved the nationwide systems of job training, job placement, and income support that are administered by ETA. These public investments help millions of Americans increase their job skills, make smoother transitions between jobs, and improve their wage levels. They also help employers find the skilled workers they need. As a result, family incomes and our nation's prosperity have both improved.

Ray has received many accolades for his leadership over his years of service, including recognition by President Clinton in awarding him with the rank of Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service, as well as the Department of Labor's most prestigious career award, the Philip Arnow Award for excellence. But what stands above even these awards is Ray's unquestionable integrity and professionalism on a bipartisan basis. Ray enjoys a great deal of respect for his leadership and skill in shaping employment policy from Members of Congress and their staffs on both sides of the aisle, enabling him to be an effective representative for the Department of Labor

through several different Administrations.

His work has made a real difference in the lives of millions of Americans. His legislative and administrative skills have played critical roles in the enactment and implementation of many important bills including the Workforce Investment Act, a 5-year effort which fundamentally reformed the Nation's job training system; the Welfare to Work program, which has helped transition welfare recipients to gainful employment; and the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which assists low income seniors earn a paycheck while providing important community services. The passage and administration of each of these acts was due in large part to Ray's personal skills and dedicated efforts to assist in the development of consensus bills that would reflect the Administration's priorities and help Americans in need.

I am also grateful for his help and advice over the years on a range of immigration issues facing the Department of Labor. Ray embraced our immigrant heritage, but also understood the importance of strengthening our immigration laws to ensure they would not be misused by those who sought to bring in immigrants to abuse them with substandard wages and working conditions, and to displace U.S. workers.

These efforts represent only a small fraction of the most recent accomplishments that mark Ray's career at the Department of Labor. His fellow workers in the Department of Labor and throughout the administration will sorely miss his wisdom and guidance, as will State and local workforce development leaders in every corner of the Nation. While I am sad to see Ray leave the civil service, I am happy to know that he is going to become Co-Director of the Workforce Program at the National Center on Education and the Economy, where I look forward to continuing to work with him in the years to come on issues involving workforce development—a crucial social policy area in helping all Americans to become full participants in the economic, social and political life of this great country.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD PEMBROKE

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Richard "Dick" Pembroke, Chairman of the Vermont House Transportation Committee, on his 16 years of service to Vermonters in the Legislature.

Dick has decided to retire from politics after a career largely devoted to solving Vermont's transportation problems. And to be sure, he understands the importance of a farsighted and diverse plan to meet Vermonter's transportation needs.

But Dick will be remembered for more than just good transportation policies for routes around Vermont. He was a politician in the finest sense. Bi-

partisan majorities consistently elected him, giving him the largest numbers of votes in his two-seat district. He rightly considered consensus, negotiation, and compromise as the key ingredients of good politics.

His attitude of cooperation in Montpelier spoke to voters so much, that he never had to spend more than a few dollars on his campaigns. He was repeatedly re-elected because of his exceptional spirit to get important things done. He used the legislative process for the benefit of all and the detriment of none.

His daily work in the Legislature was honest, and he served his district and Vermont to the best of his abilities. As a Vermonter, I would like to thank Dick for his years of service in the State House.

I am sure that his retirement from politics will never keep Dick from calling me to discuss the issues that he thinks I should care about. And if an issue is important to Dick, it should be important to all Vermonters.

My congratulations to Dick, and good luck.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4623. An act to prevent trafficking in child pornography and obscenity, to proscribe pandering and solicitation relating to visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, to prevent the use of child pornography and obscenity to facilitate crimes against children, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4679. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a maximum term of supervised release of life for sex offenders.

H.R. 4846. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the sources of silver for bullion coins, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4858. An act to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4623. An act to prevent trafficking in child pornography and obscenity, to proscribe pandering and solicitation relating to visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, to prevent the use of child pornography and obscenity to facilitate crimes against children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4679. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a maximum term of supervised release of life for sex offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4846. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to clarify the sources of silver for bullion coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4858. An act to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill read the second time, and placed on the calendar.

H.R. 3971. An act to provide for an independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment or turnover.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3937. An act to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 1227: A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, and for other purposes. (Rept. No. 107-179).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1325: A bill to ratify an agreement between the Aleut Corporation and the United States of America to exchange land rights received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for certain land interests on Adak Island, and for other purposes. (Rept. No. 107-180).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 601: To redesignate certain lands within the Craters of the Moon National Monument, and for other purposes. (Rept. No. 107-181).

H.R. 2440: A bill to rename Wolf Trap Farm Park as "Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts", and for other purposes. (Rept. No. 107-182).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE):